

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR:BAL

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E:RMPOATS

S/S: RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ENRG, EEWI, UR, US

SUBJECT: US/SOVIET OIL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 0738

1. SOVIET EMBASSY TRADE REPRESENTATIVE MKRTUMOV CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON JANUARY 19 TO STATE THAT A SOVIET DELEGATION IS NOW READY TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE THE OIL NEGOTIATIONS. HE CONFIRMED INFORMATION IN REFTEL THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY OSIPOV, THAT IT INTENDS TO ARRIVE JANUARY 25, AND THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN THE TALKS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26.

2. ROBINSON SAID THAT WE WERE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THIS NEWS, AND AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN ON THE AFTER-NOON OF JANUARY 26. HE SAID THAT HE (ROBINSON) WILL HEAD THE US DELEGATION, AND THAT HIS SENIOR ADVISER, RUTHERFORD POATS, WILL LEAD THE US NEGOTIATING TEAM. HE EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF OTHER DEMANDS ON HIS TIME, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS ON A FULL-TIME BASIS.

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3. ROBINSON ASKED MKRTUMOV TO CONVEY HIS BEST WISHES AND PERSONAL RESPECTS TO PATOLICHEV, FOR WHOM HE HAD DEVELOPED

GREAT ADMIRATION DURING THE LONG AND DIFFICULT GRAIN NEGOTIATIONS. MKRTUMOV SAID THAT PATOLICHEV WILL RETURN FROM HIS VACATION AT THE END OF THIS WEEK. IN RESPONSE TO ROBINSON'S QUESTION, HE CLAIMED THAT PATOLICHEV HAD NOT SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK IN LONDON, BUT THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN QUOTE TIRED UNQUOTE.

4. MKRTUMOV LEFT A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION (WHICH WE ASSUME HAS, BY NOW, BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY). IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE VISAS, WE ARE STARTING NAME CHECKS ON THE BASIS OF THIS LIST. EMBASSY SHOULD FORWARD VISA APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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